

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00074 080714Z

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ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4922

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL ABOUREZK VISIT TO EGYPT

1. SENATOR ABOUREZK, ACCOMPANIED BY THREE ASSISTANTS, ONE PHOTOGRAPHER, ONE JOURNALIST, AND HIS BROTHER CHARLES, ARRIVED IN CAIRO JANUARY 1 FROM DAMASCUS. APPOINTMENTS WERE ARRANGED FOR THE SENATOR TO MEET WITH DR. GAMAL OTEIFI, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY; ASU FIRST SECRETARY HAFEZ GHANEM; AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR SAYYID MARI ON JAN 2. BECAUSE OF THE BAIRAM HOLIDAYS AND THE ABSENCE OF MOST HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM CAIRO, NO OTHER APPOINTMENTS WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS COULD BE MADE.

2. THE SENATOR WAS ALSO BRIEFED BY THE USINT STAFF. A DINNER WAS GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY USINT CONTROL OFFICER HOUGHTON; THIS WAS ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR MAHMOUD TUHAMI (CHIEF OF NORTH AMERICAN DESK, MFA), PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBER DR. RUSHDI SAID, AND AHRAH DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT HAMDI FUAD. DURING HIS STAY THE SENATOR WAS ALSO ABLE TO VISIT THE MOSQUES IN CAIRO AND THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA.

3. COMMENT: THE SENATOR'S MEETING WITH HAFEZ GHANEM WAS ONE OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE OF HIS VISIT. WHILE GHANEM'S ENGLISH IS NEITHER RICH NOR FLUENT, HIS PRESENTATION OF EGYPTIAN POSITION ON MATTERS RELATING TO BOTH THE CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPTIAN DEVELOPMENTS WAS FORCEFUL AND, APPARENTLY, WELL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00074 080714Z

RECEIVED. IN GENERAL, THE SENATOR'S VISIT WAS PRODUCTIVE.

HIS EVIDENT SYMPATHY WITH A VIEWPOINT OF THE MIDDLE EAST BALANCED
IN FAVOR OF THE ARABS, HIS PRESS STATEMENTS IN THIS REGARD, AND
HIS ENERGY, AND HIS INTEREST IN LISTENING TO EGYPTIANS, WAS
APPRECIATED IN CAIRO.
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